

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RICHARD A. JOHNSON

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 6 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 17 of this paper.

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,

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